Setting up of Directorate-General of Anti-Dumping

*79. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT:
SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are proposing to set up an independent Directorate-General of Anti-Dumping;

(b) if so, the details thereof including its constitution, functioning etc;

(c) whether it is being done at the instance of international community to look after their interests; and

(d) if so, the details of its constitution and reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEDGE): (a) The Government has already set up the Directorate General of Anti-Dumping & Allied Duties under the Ministry of Commerce with effect from 13.4.98.

(b) The Directorate General is headed by an Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Commerce as the Designated Authority and is to be assisted by two Deputy Secretary/Director level officers and other supporting staff. Under the anti-dumping laws, the Designated Authority passes orders as an independent authority and its orders are liable to appeal in the Customs, Excise and Gold (Control) Appellate Tribunal (CEGAT).

(c) and (d) No, Sir. The Directorate General has been created to further-expedite relief to the domestic industry from the impact of dumped goods and to institutionalize the system.

Decline in Exports

*80. SHRI SITARAM KESRI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been considerable decline in exports to other countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years in terms of foreign exchange earned;

(c) the reasons for decline and the items which have shown downward trend; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to increase the exports?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEDGE): (a) to (d) India's exports to other countries have not declined in the recent years. According to the provisional data available from DGCI&S, Indian exports to other countries grew by 21.4% during 1995-96, by 4.01% during 1996-97 and by 2.64% in 1997-98 in dollar terms. In rupee terms the exports grew by 29.3% in 1995-96 by 10.39% in 1996-97 and by 7.45% in 1997-98.

The details regarding value of exports from 1995-96 to 1997-98 in Rupee terms and in Dollar terms as per the DGCI&S provisional data are given below :-

Year	Exports	
	US $ million	Rs. Crores
1995-96	31831	106465
1996-97	33106	117525
1997-98	33980	126286

Export performance is influenced inter-alia by international market conditions, export competitiveness of domestic industry, supporting infrastructure facilities, policy framework etc. During 1997-98 exports were affected due to a general slow down in world trade and especially the recession in many countries in South East Asia including Japan, supply side constraints in some sectors, slow erosion of competitiveness and slow industrial growth.

According to the available data from DGCI&S for April-Feb 1997-98 the principal commodities which have shown downward trend are agri and allied products, ores and minerals, leather and manufacturers, sports goods, electronic goods (hardware), carpets, cotton raw including waste and petroleum products.

Export Promotions Measures are continuously being taken by Government through changes in policies and procedures for providing export friendly environment,